



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 27: Sunday 18th October 2020

Dear Friends,

Political debate can at times produce more heat than light. This is particularly seen when leaders from two different political parties exchange words with each other without really listening to what the other person is saying. We see this at times in our own country, but the first American Presidential Election debate which took place just before President

Trump was taken ill, was sadly a clear example of this truth. Words were exchanged but there was far more speaking than listening.



Some of us remember when we were young being told by a parent or teacher that we had been given 'two ears and one mouth' and that therefore we should listen twice as much as we should talk. This may not be good biology, but it does remind us of the importance of listening.

I was reminded of this recently while listening to a 'Lectio 365' prayer reflection of the origin of the name for the 'HMV' or 'His Master's Voice' music company.

The name goes back to a painting by an English artist called Francis Barraud which was originally painted in the 1890s and which shows a dog called Nipper listening to a gramophone record. The story goes that Nipper had originally belonged to Barraud's brother, Mark. When Mark Barraud died, Francis inherited Nipper, along with a cylinder phonograph and recordings of Mark's voice. Francis noted the peculiar interest that the dog took in the recorded voice of his late master coming out of the machine and had the idea of committing the scene to canvas.

There were various versions of the painting made and, after the cylinder photograph was replaced in the picture by a machine playing the newly introduced flat gramophone records, the image

was bought by a music company who were at that time simply called 'The Gramophone Company'.



The picture was used as the basis for their trademark and the company soon became widely known by the title of the picture, 'His Master's Voice'.

In these days, when there are so many voices competing for our attention, it is important that we all take time to sit and to listen to God. I pray that as we quietly spend time in prayer and reflect on what we read in the Bible, each of us will be able to hear 'Our Master's Voice'.

Yours in His service,

Chris Blake

Worship Reflection

Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy. (Ps 99 v9)

Hymn (StF 332)

Lord I lift Your name on high, Lord I love to sing
Your praises. I'm so glad you're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, From the grave to
the sky. Lord I lift Your name on high

Prayer:

Loving God, remind us that, although you are far above all human thought, you are always near, made known through Christ and living with us through your Holy Spirit. Receive our grateful praise. Amen.

Bible Reading (Matthew 22 v 15-22)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The

emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Reflection

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus is asked what is clearly a 'trick question'. Indeed, Matthew tells us that the Pharisees 'laid plans to trap him in his words'. The trap, in this instance, was about the issue of the relationship between faith and politics. It's an issue which is still a 'hot potato' today, not least in the context of the American Presidential election. Jesus' reply might suggest that he is avoiding the issue, but in fact, what he is doing is exposing the hypocrisy of his questioners. Pious Jews would not carry a coin which had on it the image of Cesar together with the inscription proclaiming Cesar to be the 'son of a god'. Jesus is not carrying such a coin – but his accusers have to admit that they have one in their possession!

However, Jesus does more than expose their own double standards – because his statement '*Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's*' lays down the principle that our obedience to the ways of God is not a reason for a lack involvement in the world of politics. Of course, the relationship between faith and politics is not always straightforward and sometimes being a follower of Jesus will mean that we need to stand in opposition to those who lead us, but Jesus' words make it very clear that his disciples, including ourselves, should engage with their local communities and with the political world.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week for:

- Those areas of our country facing new and more restrictive Covid regulations
- Those waiting for many days for 'track and trace' results with their lives 'on hold'
- Those who are increasingly anxious about the security of their employment

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

Hymn (StF 341)

All for Jesus – all for Jesus.
This our song shall ever be:
For we have no hope, nor Saviour,
If we have not hope in thee

Final Prayer

Living God, grant that not only our words but everything we are and do may be offered to you as a living prayer, in the name of Christ. Amen

Glimpses of God's Glory



You are invited to submit a photograph or photographs that you or someone you know has taken which could be described as a 'Glimpse of God's Glory'. Please include 100 to 150 words describing what the photograph or photographs mean to you.

This week's contribution is from Kayleigh Waldon from North Camp. Kayleigh writes,

Basic Boring Bedknob.

"God is in the room" I say whilst surveying my bedroom as the sun sets for the day. Rainbow speckles everywhere. This basic boring bedknob becomes a vessel displaying a glimpse in my day of God's Glory. How marvellous it is to witness the ordinary made extraordinary, transporting me back to inner peace, security and adoration.

